

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
16 December 2004 (16.12.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2004/109163 A2**

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **F16K**
- (21) International Application Number:  
PCT/IB2004/050854
- (22) International Filing Date: 7 June 2004 (07.06.2004)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:  
0301637-5 6 June 2003 (06.06.2003) SE
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- (81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM,

AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

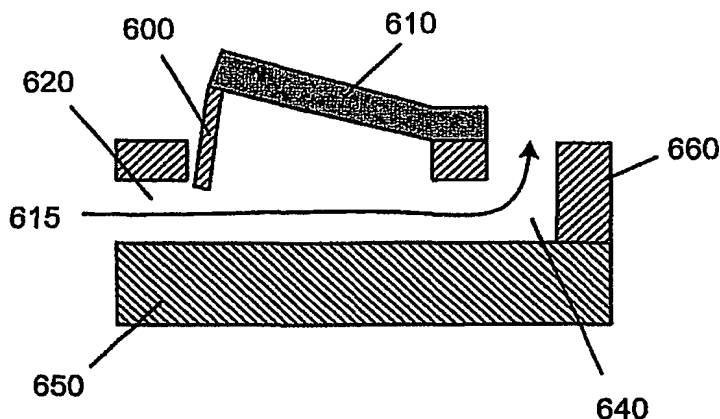
- (84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**Published:**

— *without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report*

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: A MICROMACHINED KNIFE GATE VALVE FOR HIGH-FLOW PRESSURE REGULATION APPLICATIONS



(57) Abstract: The present invention discloses a microvalve for providing pneumatic -flow regulation suitable for use in microsystem applications that are operable using highly efficient actuation means for flow obstruction while being space efficient in design in a manner that is suitable for cost effective bulk microfabrication. In an embodiment of the invention, the microvalve comprises a first substrate layer, a second layer disposed over the first substrate layer cooperating with the first substrate layer to form a channel through which the flow traverses and defines a direction of the flow. An obstruction element or knife gate is micromachined into the second layer such that it is pivotably attached and actuated with a bimorph actuator to displace the gate along a plane that is substantially perpendicular to the direction of the flow

in order to controllably regulate the flow. In a further embodiment, a microsystem comprising the microvalve concept of the invention is microfabricated into an IP-converter for pneumatic high flow pressure control applications.

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
16 December 2004 (16.12.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2004/109163 A3**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **F16K 3/02,**  
B81B 3/00

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/IB2004/050854

(22) International Filing Date: 7 June 2004 (07.06.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
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GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,  
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,  
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PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM,  
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ZW.

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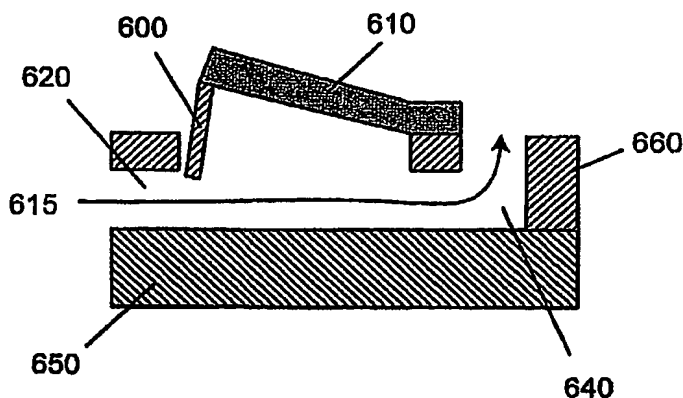
Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the  
claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of  
amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
7 April 2005

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-  
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